The Six-Leg Secret



Ava and Leo visited Meadowbrook Nature Center on a sunny morning.
In the garden, Ranger Sofia knelt beside a leaf and pointed to a ladybug.
‘We are going to look very closely today,’ she said.
The children leaned in and saw tiny legs, short antennae, and a shiny red shell.
‘It is so small,’ Ava whispered.
‘And it has many important parts,’ Leo said.
Ranger Sofia smiled. ‘Today we are going to solve the six-leg secret.’

Science Fables

Three Main Parts



Ranger Sofia drew three little circles in the dirt.

‘An insect body has three main parts,’ she explained. ‘The head, the thorax, and the abdomen.’

On the head, Ava spotted the eyes, mouth, and antennae.

The thorax was the middle section where the legs were attached.

The abdomen was the back part that held many of the insect’s organs.

‘Three parts,’ Leo repeated. ‘That makes it easier to remember.’

Science Fables

Counting Legs



Soon the group found a grasshopper resting on a stem.

Leo counted carefully. ‘One, two, three, four, five, six!’

Ranger Sofia nodded. ‘All insects have six legs, and all six are attached to the thorax.’

Ava looked closely at the middle part of the grasshopper’s body.

‘That is where the legs come from,’ she said.

‘Yes,’ Ranger Sofia replied. ‘Six legs are one of the biggest insect clues.’

Science Fables

Antennae and Wings



At the flower bed, a butterfly settled on a blossom.

Ranger Sofia pointed to its antennae. ‘These help insects sense the world around them,’ she said.

Ava watched the butterfly lift its wings and float into the air.

‘Many insects have wings,’ she noticed.

‘That is true,’ Ranger Sofia said. ‘Some insects have two wings, some have four, and some do not fly at all.’

Leo grinned. ‘Insects can be tiny, but their body parts do big jobs.’

Science Fables

Not Every Crawler



At the next stop, Leo pointed to a spider. ‘Another insect!’ he said.
Ranger Sofia smiled gently. ‘A spider is not an insect. It is an arachnid.’
Together they counted. The spider had eight legs, not six.
Its body had two main parts instead of three, and it had no antennae.
Ava thought about the ladybug, the grasshopper, and the butterfly.
‘So insects have three body parts, six legs, and antennae,’ she said.
‘Exactly,’ Ranger Sofia replied. ‘Those are the clues we were hunting for.’

Science Fables

Science Element



Insects are small animals with three main body parts: a head, a thorax, and an abdomen.

They also have six legs, and the legs are attached to the thorax.

Most insects have one pair of antennae, and many have wings.

Insects are invertebrates, which means they do not have backbones.

Spiders are not insects because they have eight legs and only two main body parts.

Simple idea: if a tiny animal has three body parts, six legs, and antennae, it is probably an insect.